

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
OF THE  
ROTHWELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Thirtcenth Annual Report on the Sanitary state of the Rothwell Urban District for the year 1904.

The Vital Statistics of the District may be taken as follows :

Area of Sanitary Distriet, 3476 acres.  
Population estimated at 4940.  
Density of Population, 1·41.  
Births, 123. Males, 60; Females, 63.  
Birth rate, 24·89 per 1000.  
Increase of Population, 13·96 per 1000.  
Deaths, 54. Males, 28; Females, 26.  
Death rate, 10·93.  
Deaths under one year of age, 10.  
Death rate under one year. 81·30 per 1000 births.

The following were the chief eauses of death as returned to the Registrar :

Nephritis	...	...	...	...	7
Disease of the Circulatory System					6
Senectus	...	...	...	...	5
Marasmus and Atrophy	...	...			5
Malignant Disease			...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	4
Convulsions		...	...	...	3
Apoplexy	...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	2
Ieterus Neonatorum			...	...	2
Influenza	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths resulting from aeident				.	3
Other causes		...	...	...	7
Total					54

I am glad to say that, from a sanitary point of view, I am able to give another very satisfactory report, The death rate this year is only 10·93, which is one of the lowest we have ever had. During the last ten years the death rate has been as under :

1895	...	...	18·4	1900	...	...	14·14
1896	...	...	18·9	1901	...	...	13·59
1897	...	...	15·9	1902	...	...	12·11
1898	...	...	13·27	1903	...	...	10·4
1899	...	...	14·76	1904	...	...	10·93

These figures speak for themselves, as, year by year, we have gradually dropped from the high death rate of 18·4 to that of 10·93, one which will compare favourably with any town in England.



#### HEALTH OF THE TOWN :

The health of the town has been very satisfactory, and, with the exception of a few cases of Searlatina, we have had no epidemic during the year. The Searlatina was of a very mild type and no deaths resulted from it. In every case the strictest precautions were taken, with the result that at no time was there any serious spread.

It will be seen above that out of the 54 deaths recorded only two occurred from Plithisis, a satisfactorily low percentage.

#### HOUSE ACCOMMODATION :—

The house accommodation in the town is very good, no dwelling having been condemned as unfit for habitation. In one case of overerowing action was taken, and the nuisance remedied.

#### SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE :—

Some five or six years ago the town was thoroughly re-drained, and the filter beds are in good working order.

#### REMOVAL OF REFUSE :—

The refuse is at present removed by public scavengers, who go round the town with a cart at stated times and collect it from boxes set outside the doors. This system is somewhat unsatisfactory, as the boxes are unsightly, and, moreover, in windy weather bits of paper and other refuse are apt to get blown about the streets. I would recommend that the boxes remain in the back yards, and that the scavengers remove them to the carts and replace them in the yards when emptied.

#### WATER SUPPLY :—

We are fortunate in the possession of a splendid water supply, the quality of the water being entirely satisfactory. This has been laid on all over the town, so that there is now no excuse for any house being without an ample supply of water, both for drinking and household purposes.

#### THE MILK SUPPLY :—

The cowsheds are inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon to the Council. No case of infectious disease has been traced to the milk.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES :—

These have been visited from time to time and have been found in a satisfactory condition.

#### BAKEHOUSES :—

These on inspection were all found to be satisfactory. There are no under-ground bakehouses in the town.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS :

A great deal of extra work has been thrown on the Medical Officer by the last Factory Act. All the factories and as many of the workshops as could be found out have been inspected. In one or two the W. C's were not properly flushed, but these defects were remedied when pointed out, in the remainder the sanitary conditions were satisfactory.

No case of infectious disease was notified from any of the houses of the out-workers.

#### DISTRICT NURSE :—

Steps are being taken to secure the services of a trained nurse.

In conclusion I must tender my best thanks to the Surveyor, Mr. T. Betts, and to the Deputy Clerk, Mr. F. Mayall, for the ready help which they have always given when required.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MORE, M.O.H.

